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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1 [REDACTED]

COUNTRY

Romania

SUBJECT

29-Year Military Service Period

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DATE DISTR. May 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO

REPORT NO.

25X1 [REDACTED]

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1. "The military service period for the average Rumanian in the new popular democracy totals some 29 years--a record figure compared with Western standards. This period, according to information reaching this country [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED] is split into three years of active service, three years additional active service, 15 years in the reserve and eight years of militia. In addition, the Rumanian has to agree to three years of 'civic service' in a labor unit between the age of 18 to 21.

25X1 2. "According to the same [Rumanian] [REDACTED] the Rumanian Army, Soviet-trained and led, has become a force numbering some 355,000 men, not counting militia and security units. This figure is a far cry from the original 120,000 men authorized under the peace treaty signed in Paris on 10 Feb 47. But it can be safely said that what this force has in years of intensive training it lacks in enthusiasm due to this abnormally prolonged period of military service.

3. "The Rumanian armed forces are today [as of April 1953] composed of seven infantry divisions (as against 17 before World War II), two cavalry divisions (six before World War II), two Alpine mountain divisions (four before World War II), two armored divisions, four motorized divisions and an air force consisting of two fighter units, two bombing and two tactical air arms. The navy, extremely modest, is composed of one solitary and outdated submarine, two torpedo boats and six monitors for Danubian patrol work.

4. "The country's [Rumania] [REDACTED] internal security forces consist of eight border guard brigades and 12 security police regiments, the national equivalent of the Soviet Secret Police.

5. "All these forces are controlled by the Minister of Armed Forces, Emil Bodnaros, alias Bodnarchuk, a Communist of Ukrainian origin and one-time captain in the Royal Rumanian Army. His right name is Lt Gen Leontin Salajan, a

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former mechanic in an aircraft factory who is at the same time Chief of Staff. Second 'vice minister' of the armed forces is a Transylvanian German, Wilhelm Suder, who, apart from his own pre-World War II period of military service, had no experience whatsoever of army matters before putting on the gold-decked uniform of Major General. Suder runs Rumania's intelligence and counter-intelligence services.

6. "More important by far than the three figure-heads of the supreme general staff is Nicolas Ceausescu, who coordinates and inspires the political and educational training of the new army. Political centers of education in Marxism-Leninism are thus the keynote of the armed forces' time schedule. The most important are situated at Sfantu Gheorghe (for the infantry), at Dadilov (for artillery), Targoviste (mechanized), Sibiu (cavalry), Pipera, near Bucharest (for air forces), Buzau and Cluj, Constanta (for the navy) and Fagaras (for partisans).
7. "In spite of the spectacular organization of the army's institutions and hierarchy, the final word, as far as actual strategy is concerned, comes from Moscow. The army itself remains a spiritless puppet dangling from the strings held by its lay rulers in the capital who, they themselves, are but the mouthpieces of the Soviet General Staff."

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